

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended): A storage system comprising:

a set of plural disk drive units;

a plurality of disk array controllers coupled to at least one computer via a

network; and

a first connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and said disk array controllers, said first connection unit configured such that any of said disk array controllers can communicate with any of said disk drive units;

a plurality of file servers each comprising a first circuit accepting access from a computer through a file I/O interface; and

a second connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and said file serves, said second connection unit configured to ~~directly connect~~ provide a connection between any one of said file servers to any one of said disk drive units, wherein said connection does not include any of said disk controllers.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein a second circuit of each of said disk array controllers is a fibre channel controller.

9 and 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein some of said plural disk drive units holds said identification information in a specific storage area in the disk drive unit.

1 12. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 11 wherein
2 each of said disk array controllers searches identification information in the specific storage area
3 in some of said plural disk drive units, and determines which of said plural disk drive units is
4 accessible based on the detected identification information.

1 13. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 12 further
2 comprising a disk pool management unit coupled to said plural disk drive units and a
3 management console, wherein said disk pool management unit stores identification information
4 identifying at least one of said disk array controllers into the specific storage area in some of said
5 plural disk drive units based on an input from said management console.

14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 12 wherein
2 each of said disk array controllers performs the determination during system initialization.

16. (Canceled)

1 17. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein
2 one of said disk array controllers comprises a first circuit accepting access from a computer
3 through a block I/O interface.